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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NIC-01 /067 W
---------- 102696
R 181718Z DEC 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9368
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6998

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, CH, UR, CA, UK
SUBJ: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: USNATO 6985

1. AT DEC 17 POLADS DISCUSSION OF DRAFT SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS PAPER, CANADIAN AND BRITISH REPS SUMMARIZED RECENT REPORTS ON ASPECTS OF USSR-PRC RELATIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW.

2. CANADIAN REPORT, WHICH CANAIDAN REP QUOTED ROM A DEC 12 TELEGRAM FROM HIS MOSCOW EMBASSY, FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT:

CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAS MADE ONE OR TWO INTERESTING COMMENTS ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS TO NORWEGIAN AMB. HE SAID AS A RESULT OF ULAN BATOR SPEECH OF BREZHNEV THEY NOW KNOW WHO IS THE ENEMY OF CHINA IN THE POLITBURO. LIN HSIN-CHUAN SAID THERE HAD BEEN SIGNS IN 1969 THAT ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO KOSYGIN FOR MTG WITH CHOU-EN-LAI HAD BEEN ALTERED IN AN ANTI-CHINESE WAY BY POLITBURO. EVER SINCE THEY HAD BEEN TRYING TO PINPOINT THE LEADER OF THE ANTI-CHINESE ELEMENT. NOW IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WAS BREZHNEV.
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LIN ALSO SAID THAT BREZHNEV HAD DELIBERATELY MISINTERPRETED NOV7 MSG FROM PEKING. WHEN CHINESE SPOKE OF DISPUTED AREAS FROM WHICH TROOPS OF BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN THEY MEANT ONLY TWO AREAS (A) DISPUTED ISLANDS IN USSRI RIVER (B) AREA OF SINKIANG

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WHICH WAS TRADITIONAL GRAZING LAND OF LOCAL NOMADIC PEOPLES.
HOWEVER BREZHNEV CHOSE TO INTERPRET DISPUTED AREAS AS MEANING
ALL AREAS COVERED BY QUOTE ILLEGAL TREATIES UNQUOTE. LIN SAID THIS
WAS CLEARLY NOT/NOT CHINESE INTENTION AND IF RUSSIANS INTERPRETED
CHINESE MSG AS DEMANDING IMPOSSIBLE PRECONDITIONS FOR NORMALIZATION
OF RELATIONS IT WAS BECAUSE MOSCOW DID NOT/NOT WANT SERIOUS
NEGOTIATIONS, OR INDEED NORMALIZATION.
END TEXT.

3. BRITISH REPORT FROM UK EMBASSY MOSCOW RECOUNTS A
NOVEMBER 15 CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL KAPITSA:
(NOTE: MISSION LATER LEARNED UK PARTICIPANT WAS UK AMB
AND FOLLOWING IS EXACT QUOTE FROM HIS REPORT BY LETTER TO
LONDON. PLEASE PROTECT PRECISE TEXT AND SOURCE.)
BEGIN TEXT:

KAPITSA DID NOT EXPECT ANY UPTURN IN RELATIONS WITH CHINA WHILE
MAO AND CHOU WERE IN POWER. AFTER THE DEATH OF MAO THERE WOULD BE
A POWER STRUGGLE, WHICH MIGHT TAKE SOME OF THE HEART OUT OF CHINESE
ANTI-SOVIETISM. MAO'S SUCCESSORS WOULD BE WEAK. HE PREDICTED AN
INTERNAL STRUGGLE IN THE LEADING GROUP FOR SOME 7 TO 10 YEARS AFTER
MAO'S DEATH. HE CONCEDED THAT CHINA MIGHT FEEL THE CONTINUING
NEED FOR AN "EXTERNAL THREAT" IN ORDER TO UNITE THE CHINESE PEOPLE.
IF SO, NATIONALISM AND CHAUVINISM MIGHT CONTINUE AS
AT PRESENT. BUT THEIR ANTI-SOVIET CONTENT MIGHT BE REDUCED BECAUSE
MAO'S SUCCESSORS WOULD BE YOUNGER AND WEAKER THAN HE: AT LEAST
THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT CARRY THE OLD LOAD OF HATRED
THAT MAO DID. MAO'S IMMEDIATE SUCCESSOR WOULD PROBABLY BE SOME SORT
OF CLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP UNDER CHIANG CH'ING, MAO'S WIFE. THERE
WOULD BE A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE WITHIN THE ELITE, WITH THE
VARIOUS POWER GROUPS DESTROYING ONE ANOTHER. IT WOULD TAKE TIME-
PERHAPS 7 TO 10 YEARS FROM MAO'S DEATH - FOR A STRONG PERSONALITY
TO EMERGE, CAPABLE OF PROPOSING IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE
NORTHERN "DEVIL". BUT, SOONER OR LATER, A NEW AND CONFIDENT CHINESE
LEADERSHIP WOULD UNDERSTAND THE FOLLY AND EXPENSE OF CONTINUING
THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION (THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP
EVEN TODAY NO LONGER BELIVED THAT THE USSR WOULD ATTACK) AND
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MIGHT THEREFORE BE WILLING TO ARRIVE AT PRAGMATIC AGREEMENTS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION.
END TEXT.

4. IN PROVIDING US WITH TEXT OF REPORT IN PARA 3, UK DELEGATION
WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT U.S. OFFICIALS NOT RPT NOT QUOTE
DIRECTLY FROM IT. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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